

APPLICANT'S REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Amended claim 1 now recites “reinforcement rod suspending means for freely positioning and retaining freely disposed, horizontally extending reinforcement rods, said rod suspending means including a plurality of grid elements each having a plurality of elongate elements [to distinguish from “reinforcement rods] that extend vertically along and are substantially parallel to the vertically disposed molding surfaces with each element having a plurality of tie members fixedly connected to the vertically disposed elongate elements, said tie members extend substantially perpendicular to the molding surfaces to define a plurality of vertically spaced locations of support for the horizontally disposed reinforcement rods.” And paragraph e) states that the “freely, horizontally disposed reinforcement rods being contiguously disposed on said tie members at a plurality of preselected vertical locations and at a preselected horizontal location spaced inwardly from each said opposed molding surface within said mold cavity.”

Amended claim 6, paragraph h) recites that each grid element includes a plurality of tie members that are substantially perpendicular to the molding surfaces and horizontally disposed at spaced preselected vertical locations for contiguously supporting said freely disposed, horizontal reinforcement rods.

The Argument

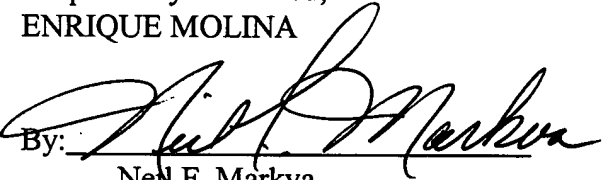
Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected as being anticipated by the Wepf '156 patent that does not disclose a plurality of tie members so as to support the “freely disposed, horizontally extending reinforcement rods” as specifically required by Applicant's claims. Applicant's claimed tie members are fixedly connected to vertically disposed elongate elements and extend substantially perpendicular

to the molding surfaces. Wepf does not disclose the use of a plurality of grid elements that extend vertically with each grid element having rod locating means for positioning and retaining freely, horizontally disposed reinforcement rods at a plurality of preselected vertical and horizontal locations as now set forth in Applicant's independent claims.

Wept's horizontally disposed reinforcement rods are connected to vertical reinforcement rods to form grids 16 and 18 that are both substantially parallel to the molding surfaces. In distinction, Applicant's horizontal tie members are connected to the vertical rods; are substantially perpendicular to the molding surfaces; and contiguously support the freely disposed, horizontal reinforcement rods.

For the foregoing reasons, the examiner considers claims 1 and 3-8 allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
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